



## MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens  
570 West Avenue Twenty-six, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, California 90065  
Phone (323) 221-9944

### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: June 20, 2008

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item IV: Consideration of resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for an augmentation of Proposition 84 funds to grant SMM-0752 for Vista Hermosa Park, Los Angeles.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing application to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for an augmentation of Proposition 84 funds to grant SMM-0752 for Vista Hermosa Park in the amount of \$400,000.

Background: At the July 9, 2007 Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) meeting, the SMMC Board authorized a grant of Proposition 84 funds to MRCA for Vista Hermosa Park to exercise additive alternates to the base bid for the Vista Hermosa Park and upgrade the landscaping. The SMMC Board augmented that grant on May 12, 2008.

Construction of the park is almost complete and the park will open for public use on July 19, 2008. Staff have recently met with numerous local community groups to introduce them to the project. The park has been met with unqualified support and enthusiasm, and it is apparent that the demand for active use areas and shaded gatherings is higher than originally thought. To meet this demand, staff proposes to modify the planting, irrigation, and pathway design in several areas to allow for larger, better distributed, shaded and configured play and gathering areas that will not conflict with other uses and the more fragile native plant restoration areas. More large trees are necessary to achieve any shade in the short term. The proposed augmentation will meet these objectives.

The key issue is that the improvements must be approved now both to meet the deadline of the scheduled park opening and dedication and to reduce any impact on the general contractor's constricted schedule. Making the proposed modifications after the park has opened would impede public use this summer.

Staff is working to augment the Community Development Block Grant for the park in the amount of \$250,000. If the augmentation is approved, these funds could be applied to improvements already funded by a Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy

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Proposition 12 grant. Barring any unforeseen expenses necessary to complete Vista Hermosa Park, these funds could be refunded to the Conservancy and appropriated for other projects.